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Middle East Situation Report #46
(as of 1100 EST, 29 February 1984)

LEBANON/SYRIA

The security situation in Beirut early this morning was generally quiet, although machinegun and small arms fire was reported along the Green Line separating East and West Beirut. Fighting was also taking place in the Suq al Gharb.

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President Gemayel arrived in Damascus just before 1300 local time (0600 EST).

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and neighboring areas this morning and reported an unusual absence of vehicular traffic outside the city. He noted a roadblock manned by Rifaat Assad's Defense Companies troops that was controlling all entry to Damascus. described the security situation in Damascus as tense, with all vital locations under heavy guard.

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- The extraordinarily heavy security throughout Damascus and the new deployments of Rifaat Assad's defense companies units around the capital probably relate to recent threats that Rifaat Assad reportedly has made on key Syrian officials.

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- Gemayel's visit to Damascus today almost certainly has contributed to tighter security in Damascus, but scarcely justifies the extensive deployment of troops in and around the city.

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